

OPINION 2026 (Case 3044)**Generic and specific names of birds (Aves) conventionally accepted as published in the *Proceedings or Transactions of the Zoological Society of London* and monographic works by John Gould and other contemporary zoologists: suppression of prior usages not approved**

Abstract. The Commission has ruled not to approve proposals for the conservation of a large number of generic and specific names of birds in their conventionally accepted places of publication. The problem arose from the 19th century practice of publishing meeting reports of the Zoological Society of London in certain London periodicals, making some names available from those periodicals rather than from subsequent formal publications of the Zoological Society. A proposal had been made to suppress the earlier usages of names in periodicals in order to maintain stability of the formal source references. No names are placed on Official Lists or Indexes.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Aves; J. Gould; G.R. Gray; R. Owen; *Proceedings and Transactions of the Zoological Society of London*.

Ruling

- (1) Proposals put forward for the conservation of a number of generic and specific names of birds in their conventionally accepted places of publication by the suppression of prior usages in certain London periodicals were not approved.

History of Case 3044

An application for the conservation of a large number of generic and specific names of birds in their conventionally accepted places of publication was submitted on 19 February 1997 by Richard Schodde (*Australian National Wildlife Collection, CSIRO, Lyneham, Australia*) and Walter J. Bock (*Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University, New York, U.S.A.*) on behalf of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature (SCON).

The names refer to new taxa presented at meetings of the Zoological Society of London and traditionally accepted as available from descriptions published in the *Proceedings or Transactions of the Zoological Society*. However, it is now known that some of the names, or variants of them, had first appeared in a number of periodicals (including *The Athenaeum*, *The Literary Gazette* and *The Analyst*), which carried reports of the meetings of the Zoological Society. The objective of the application was to maintain availability of the names in question from their conventionally accepted places of publication by suppression of the earlier, but hitherto unknown, usages of those names.

After correspondence the case was published in BZN 54: 172–182 (September 1997). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

An opposing comment from Dr Storrs L. Olson was published in BZN 55: 176–181 (September 1998). A reply from the authors of the application was published at the same time (BZN 55: 181–185), incorporating some emendations to the original

proposals. A further opposing comment from Drs Murray D. Bruce and Ian A.W. McAllan was published in BZN 56: 274–279 (December 1999), together with a reply from the originating authors (BZN 56: 279–280). An additional comment from Bruce & McAllan was published in BZN 57: 113 (June 2000).

The emendments (BZN 55: 184–185; September 1998) made by Schodde and Bock to their original application were incorporated in the proposals for voting. Further emendments derived from these comments or inherent in the case were listed in the voting paper.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 2001 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 54: 175–181 with the emendments set out in BZN 55: 184–185 and the additional proposals listed in the voting paper.

At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2001 the votes were as follows: 9 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 11 Commissioners voted AGAINST, Alonso-Zarazaga abstained, no votes were received from Dupuis and Song.

Some of the Commissioners who voted against the Application commented that case-by-case consideration of individual names would have been preferable, and the suggestion was made that the Commission should not concern itself with original source references where the stability of the actual name was not endangered.

No names are placed on Official Lists or Indexes so as to allow for any future proposals relating to names where there are nomenclatural problems that need to be resolved.